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Introduction

The purpose of this book is to assist general educators in supporting the needs of children at risk for failure in school. Given that much of this information is not included in preservice education for general educators, it is very important that teachers have access to simple strategies to support children who are struggling. We also intend to provide systematic strategies general educators can use and to present them in an accessible manner. Teachers are incredibly busy, and we wanted to provide a guide that can be read over a weekend and used the following week in school. Our examples are hands-on and based on research. We begin by defining risk and how children's characteristics interact with school expectations to buffer or exacerbate risk. Then we present ways to support children at risk by building relationships in classrooms, collecting systematic data to monitor growth, stressing the importance of practice, implementing behavioral and academic interventions, using technology, and working with other professionals and families.

BOOK OVERVIEW

The approaches discussed in this book in Chapters 2 (building relationships) and 3 (data based decision making) are effective teaching strategies designed to meet the needs of all children and are especially important to use to address the needs of children at risk. Other strategies are particularly focused on increasing the success for children with increased needs for support. Chapter 4 includes the importance of increasing practice opportunities, Chapter 5 presents the social behavioral needs of children at risk for failure and Chapter 6 includes academic supports for children

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at risk. Chapter 7 includes a discussion of the importance of using technology to support children at risk for failure and ways teachers can utilize technology. In Chapter 8 we address the additional needs of increasing family involvement and collaboration across professionals for children at risk for failure.